

**Message from Pam Freeman**

It was good to see The Church Grounds Gang featured last month. They have been turning up (various generations at different times) and selflessly giving their time. We moved into the Village at the end of 1986 and I have always been conscious that we have a marvellous farming community who seem to turn up when needed. One Christmas Eve we went out to Midnight Mass and a huge Willow Tree had fallen, blocking the lane and Church Drive. We managed to get up the steps and along the Bank for the service. When we came out, the tree had been chopped up and taken away by Brian and friends! It seemed like a miracle to us! Rachel Fox was almost in tears because she said she remembered that tree being planted when she was a small child!



**HARVEST FESTIVAL**

A time for great celebration, a time to give thanks for our farming community. We take the food on our tables for granted but we all know of the hard work that has gone into its production. Thank you farmers.

For many years the children of the village brought baskets of home grown produce to church and these were distributed to the older members of the community. Then followed a period when we gave dried and tinned goods which were donated to the Crewe Salvation Army. Last year, due to Covid restrictions we put money donations in envelopes which again were given to the Crewe Salvation Army. After much deliberation we have decided to do the same this year. Our donations are really appreciated by the Salvation Army.

The Church will be decorated and **THE HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICE will take place on SUNDAY 26th SEPTEMBER at 10.30am** ; please do join us at this service.

Sadly, due to restrictions on numbers in the Village Hall, there will be no Harvest Supper this year.

Chris Bailey

**From The Rectory**

How good at long last to get back to some normality. We can now sing hymns. We have had some lovely wedding and baptism celebrations. People are now booking celebrations for next year – how good this all is. We still have to be careful and continue to take some precautions but we are getting there.

On the 1st August it was good to welcome the Archdeacon to our morning service. He along with Bishop Sam Corley the new Bishop of Stockport will be here again on Wednesday 29th September at 7pm.

This is for the **INDUCTION & INSTITUTION SERVICE** and will be Bishop Sam's first service of this kind. This is not "My special service" but is a special service for the Parish and St Bertoline's. **PLEASE** do your best to be here on that evening. Even if you are not a regular attender still do please join us all are welcome.

Also at the end of the month on Sunday 26th at 10 30 am we celebrate Harvest Thanksgiving. This is a much loved time of the year when we think of God's Blessing in providing us with the fruits of the earth. And how wonderful to celebrate this in such a lovely rural setting as ours.

I am amazed at how the farmers work in this area their timing of work and skill has much to be admired.

It is just over a year now since I moved here all things considered St Bertoline's has done its best during this period. Services are quite well attended which is so pleasing to see. How good to have a social occasion after such a long time with the Strawberry Tea ; though I must confess I am not an expert at putting up or dismantling gazebos!

So now as the holiday season comes slowly to a close we can look forward to the coming weeks and months quite positively. I am grateful for all that people do in the day to day care of St Bertoline's.

People who give of their time, talents and resources to maintaining such a lovely old church and its grounds outside, admired by all who visit . Thank you.

When the Bishop comes on the 29th the service will, towards the end, have a prayer where we pray for God's Blessing upon us - I end with this prayer now....

**Bless us, Lord.  
Bless our parish.  
Inspire our worship.  
Fill us with your love.  
Send us out in the power of your Spirit  
to live and work to your praise and glory.  
Amen.**

Rev Peter

## Busy Times in Barthomley

August was a busy month. The bells rang out to welcome our Archdeacon Ian Bishop who led the service on August 1st; he was such a help to Barthomley when we were appointing our new Vicar. We now sing hymns on a Sunday morning, oh what a delight! The Visitors book is back in position and folk are obviously coming into church. The churchyard is looking pristine even if we have had more than

our fair share of rain. Thanks to Ken Wright the inside lower church windows are getting a clean, well it is more than 10 years since they were last done.

The Strawberry Tea was a delightful social occasion thanks to Christine and Peter Ennion making their garden available to us and to the team of ladies, Jackie Rockey, Diana Griffin, Dorothy Pegg, Christine Ennion and Jackie Smith who kept us fed and watered. To those who loaned gazebos and gave raffle prizes, thank you.

Our oldest and dearest member of the congregation, Harold Scurlock, celebrates his 96th Birthday at the end of August. Happy birthday Harold.

As you will have read in Peter's letter his Induction and Instillation takes place on Wednesday 29th September at 7.00pm. Parishioners and congregation you are all welcome at this service; do join us.

Chris Bailey Churchwarden

